

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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05-0001

To: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

From: Dr. Sam W. Swofford, Executive Director

Subject: Approval of Addition to California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Sections 80089.3 and 80089.4, Pertaining to Introductory and Specific Subject Matter Authorizations

The addition of Title 5 Sections 80089.3 and 80089.4 pertaining to Introductory and Specific Subject Matter Authorizations have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law and are effective January 1, 2005. The text of the regulations is attached. These regulations outline the requirements and the authorizations for introductory and specific subject matter authorizations that are aligned with the Federal *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001 (NCLB) subject matter competence requirement. Subject matter authorizations are add-ons to a credential to allow an individual to teach a class or classes in a subject outside the area in which he or she earned a credential.

Background

NCLB requires that teachers hired to teach in Title I schools after July 1, 2002 and all teachers by July 1, 2006, be "highly qualified" or NCLB compliant in NCLB core academic subject areas (English, reading/language arts, math, science, foreign language, civics/government, economics, arts, history, and geography). NCLB compliance requires that teachers hold a bachelor's degree, state certification, and achieve subject matter competence in the subject area(s) being taught. NCLB subject matter competence may be met by passing an examination (for elementary this is the only means of meeting subject matter competency), a Commission-approved subject matter program, or a major or units equivalent to a major. The California State Board of Education has defined a major equivalent as 32 semester hours.

The Commission currently issues and will continue to issue two types of supplementary authorizations, introductory and specific, that may be added to teaching credentials in the federal core and non-core academic subject areas. In addition to the basic teaching credential, a supplementary authorization requires the completion of 20 semester or 10 upper division semester units, or equivalent quarter units, of coursework in the subject requested. Another option is for the individual to hold a bachelor's or higher degree in the subject area requested. Since supplementary authorizations do not require an individual to hold a degree in the subject area of the supplementary authorization, teachers qualifying for the supplementary authorization in federal NCLB core academic subject areas are not NCLB compliant. Only those who qualified for the supplementary authorization by holding a degree in the subject area are NCLB compliant. Thus, the Commission developed a new authorization for individuals that meets the NCLB subject matter competence by requiring either a degree or a minimum of 32 semester units of course work in the subject area.

Subject Matter Authorizations

Subject matter authorizations are modeled after the supplementary authorizations. A chart comparing supplementary and subject matter authorizations may be found below. Subject matter authorizations may be issued to holders of Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Standard Elementary, Standard Secondary, and some Special Secondary Teaching Credentials. The Commission has developed a guide for the authorization and requirements for subject matter authorizations. It may be found on the Commission's web site at <http://www.etc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/Subject-Matter-Auth.pdf>. The guideline book will be updated as the Commission begins issuing these new authorizations and new questions arise.

There are two types of subject matter authorizations; introductory and specific. Subject matter authorizations are limited only to the NCLB core academic subject areas: English, reading/language arts, math, science, foreign language, civics/government, economics, arts, history, and geography. One major difference between the supplementary authorizations and subject matter authorizations is the option of adding the specific subject matter authorizations to both single and multiple subject credentials whereas specific supplementary authorizations may only be added to single subject credentials.

Introductory Authorizations

Subject matter authorizations require an individual to complete 32 semester units of non-remedial course work or a collegiate major in the subject. Courses with the same content cannot be duplicated to count toward the 32 semester units. Introductory subject matter authorizations require a minimum of three semester or four quarter units of course work in each content area across a subject area. One exception is in the area of science which requires six semester or eight quarter units in each of the four science content areas. The introductory subjects authorize the holder to teach the subject matter content typically included in curriculum guidelines and textbooks approved for study in grades 9 and below. This allows an employer to assign a teacher with an introductory subject matter authorization to teach a class in which the curriculum is for grades 9 and below but the students in the class may be in grades K-12.

Specific Authorizations

Specific subject matter authorizations require 32 semester units of non-remedial course work or a collegiate major in the subject. One exception is in the area of History with the requirement of a minimum of 16 semester units in both world history and US History. Specific subject matter authorizations are issued in the specific subject area and authorize the holder to teach only the specific subject in grades preschool, K-12, and classes organized for adults.

The charts below compare the authorization and requirements for the supplementary authorization with the new subject matter authorization.

Introductory Authorizations

Requirement	Supplementary Authorization	Subject Matter Authorization
Basic Credential	Multiple and Single Subject	Multiple and Single Subject
Authorization	Subject matter content in grades 9 and below	Subject matter content in grades 9 and below (<i>issued only in NCLB core academic subject areas</i>)
Course Work	Degree major OR 20 semester/10 upper division semester units	Degree major or 32 semester units
Content Areas	A course in each area	Three semester units in each area; science requires six semester units in each area

Specific Authorizations

Requirement	Supplementary Authorization	Subject Matter Authorization
<i>Basic Credential</i>	Single Subject	Multiple and Single Subject
<i>Authorization</i>	Subject matter content in grades preschool, K-12, and adults	Subject matter content in grades preschool, K-12, and adults (<i>issued only in NCLB core academic subject areas</i>)
<i>Course Work</i>	Degree major OR 20 semester/10 upper division semester units	Degree major or 32 semester units; History requires 16 semester units in both US and world history

Supplementary Authorizations

Nothing in these new regulations changes the status or requirements for supplementary authorizations. The Commission will continue to issue supplementary authorizations in both the federal core and non-core academic subject areas. A guide to the authorizations and requirements for supplementary authorizations may be found on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/Supplement-Auth.pdf>.

Converting a Supplementary Authorization to a Subject Matter Authorization

Holders of supplementary authorizations may convert their documents to a subject matter authorization in the same subject, if available. The Commission will start the evaluation on the basis that the individual has completed the equivalent of twenty semester units in the subject area regardless of the method the individual used to qualify for the supplementary authorization. For individuals issued supplementary authorizations based on ten upper division units, this conversion process will only be for supplementary authorizations issued prior to January 1, 2005. Individuals issued supplementary authorizations based on ten upper division units after January 1, 2005, will need an additional twenty-two semester units to earn a subject matter authorization.

For both specific and introductory subject matter authorizations, official transcripts verifying completion of an additional twelve semester units will need to be submitted or in the case of supplementary authorizations based on upper division units issued after January 1, 2005, an additional twenty-two units. Individuals issued a supplementary authorization on the basis of completing a degree in the subject area that convert to a subject matter authorization may submit an application, appropriate fee, and verification of the degree. This may be either on an official transcript or, if submitting the application through an employing district or county or a college or university, a photocopy of their California or out-of-state diploma showing conferral of the appropriate degree. A complete list of the requirements may be found in the Subject Matter Authorization Guideline Book on the Commission's web site at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/Subject-Matter-Auth.pdf>.

Official transcripts of course work completed since the issuance of the supplementary authorization will be required along with an application and appropriate fee. It is recommended that the applicant submit official transcripts of all course work that will be used for the subject matter authorization, including the course work used to earn the supplementary authorization. This is especially for those applicants who may have completed more than twenty semester units to earn their supplementary authorization.

Applying for a Subject Matter Authorization

If an individual applies for a subject matter authorization but does not qualify, the Commission will return the application requesting the additional course work the individual is missing unless the application is specifically marked as “*subject matter authorization or supplementary authorization*”. If marked as such, the Commission will issue the supplementary authorization and include a report of evaluation to inform the applicant what he/she needs to complete to earn the subject matter authorization. If the application is not marked as noted above, it will be returned to the applicant or, in the case of a college or university recommendation, to the recommending institution. The Commission will request the missing course work for the subject matter authorization and inform the applicant whether he/she qualifies for a supplementary authorization. The letter will also ask the applicant if he/she would like the Commission to issue the supplementary authorization if the subject matter authorization requirements are not met.

If an individual applies for a supplementary authorization but qualifies for a subject matter authorization in the subject area, the Commission will issue the subject matter authorization without returning the application packet.

Questions

If you have further questions concerning this regulation change, please contact the Information Services Unit toll-free at (888) 921-2682 between 12 noon and 4:45 p.m., weekdays or by e-mail at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.

Title 5 Sections 80089.3 and 80089.4, Pertaining to Introductory and Specific Subject Matter Authorizations**Section 80089.3. Introductory Subject Matter Authorizations.**

- (a) The holder of a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b) may have one or more of the subjects listed in subsection (b) added as an introductory subject matter authorization. Equivalent quarter hours may be used to meet the semester hour requirement. The candidate shall verify completion of either (1) or (2) below:
 - (1) a collegiate major from a regionally accredited college or university in a subject or in a subject directly related to each subject from subsection (b) to be listed, or
 - (2) 32 semester or 48 quarter hours of non-remedial collegiate coursework in a subject listed in subsection (b). Included within the 32 semester or 48 quarter hours is a minimum of three semester or four quarter hours in each of the specific content areas listed for the subject in subsection (b) except for Science which requires a minimum of six semester or eight quarter hours in each of the specific content areas listed. A grade of "C" or above in any course used to meet the provisions of this subsection shall be required. Non-remedial coursework for the purposes of this section shall be defined as coursework that is applicable toward a bachelor's degree or a higher degree at a regionally accredited college or university.
- (b) The following subjects may be added as introductory subject matter authorizations to a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b):

- (1) Art, with the content areas of art history including aesthetics and appreciation, two-dimensional art including drawing, painting, and printmaking, three-dimensional art including sculpture and ceramics, and photography/computer generated imagery;
 - (2) English with the content areas of grammar or language structure, advanced composition, speech, drama or theatre, and literature;
 - (3) A Language Other Than English (specify) with the content areas of grammar, composition, culture, conversation, and literature;
 - (4) Mathematics with the content areas of algebra, advanced algebra, geometry, probability or statistics, and development of the real number system or introduction to mathematics;
 - (5) Music with the content areas of vocal music including the analysis of repertoire and literature appreciation for developing musicians, instrumental music including the analysis of repertoire and literature appreciation for developing musicians, aural musicianship, keyboard, music history including music appreciation, world music, conducting, and music theory;
 - (6) Science with the content areas of biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, and physics; and
 - (7) Social Science with the content areas of United States history, California history, world history, world civilization or world cultures, physical geography, and United States government.
- (c) A subject specified in subsection (b) as an introductory subject matter authorization authorizes the holder to teach only the subject matter content typically included for that subject in curriculum guidelines and textbooks approved for study in grades 9 and below to students in preschool, kindergarten, grades 1-12, or in classes organized primarily for adults.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 12001 and 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(e), 44256 and 44349, Education Code and 20 U.S.C. Section 7801(23) and 20 U.S.C. Section 6319(a).

Section 80089.4. Specific Subject Matter Authorizations.

- (a) The holder of a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b) may have one or more of the subjects listed in subsection (b) added as a specific subject matter authorization. Equivalent quarter hours may be used to meet the semester hour requirement. The candidate shall verify completion of either (1) or (2) below:
- (1) a collegiate major from a regionally accredited college or university in a subject directly related to each subject from subsection (b) to be listed, or
 - (2) 32 semester or 48 quarter hours of non-remedial collegiate coursework directly related to the requested subject listed in subsection (b) except for history which requires a minimum of 16 semester units in both world history and U. S. history. A grade of "C" or above in any course used to meet the provisions of this subsection shall be required. Non-remedial coursework for the purposes of this section shall be defined as

coursework that is applicable toward a bachelor's degree or a higher degree at a regionally accredited college or university.

- (b) The following subjects may be added as a specific subject matter authorization to a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b):

Art History/Appreciation	History
Biological Sciences	Instrumental Music
Chemistry	Literature
Civics/Government	Photography
Dance	Physics
Drama/Theatre	Plant Science
Economics (social science)	Three-Dimensional Art
English Composition	Two-Dimensional Art
Geography	Vocal Music
Geosciences	

- (c) A subject specified in subsection (b) as a specific subject matter authorization authorizes the holder to teach courses in the specific subject in departmentalized classes in grades preschool and K-12 or in classes organized primarily for adults.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 12001 and 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(e), 44256, Education Code and 20 U.S.C. 7801(23) and 20 U.S.C. 6319(a).